

Rangers Reveal - Carole's Walk

Hi, I'm Carole, the Lead Ranger for the National Trusts Bristol Countryside sites. My work covers a very diverse portfolio of places including Leigh Woods, Tyntesfield, Cadbury Camp, Redcliffe Bay, Shirehampton Park, Blasie Hamlets, Frenchay Moor, Clevedon Court and Failand Estate.

Why I love this walk

My favourite local walk starts at Snuff Mills and follows the River Frome up to Frenchay Moor. There is something magical about rivers and the species that call it home. As a bonus, on a hot day there are places to pop your toes in!

Features to look out for

- The old corn grinding mill at Snuff Mills is an interesting stop when you first start the walk, information panels are dotted around and there is a row of beautiful Victorian cottages in front.
- During the walk you'll cross a couple of old river crossings, including Grade II listed Frenchay Bridge, built in 1788.
- The privately owned tearoom at the Snuff Mills car park is the perfect place to end your walk with a well-earned cuppa

Animals to look out for

1. Look out for Kingfishers diving into the river in search of food
2. If you're lucky you might spot rare White-Letter Hairstreak butterflies in the Elm trees along the riverbank



ROUTE DETAILS



Easy



2 hours



3.8 miles
(round trip)



Dog friendly



Access:
Moderate

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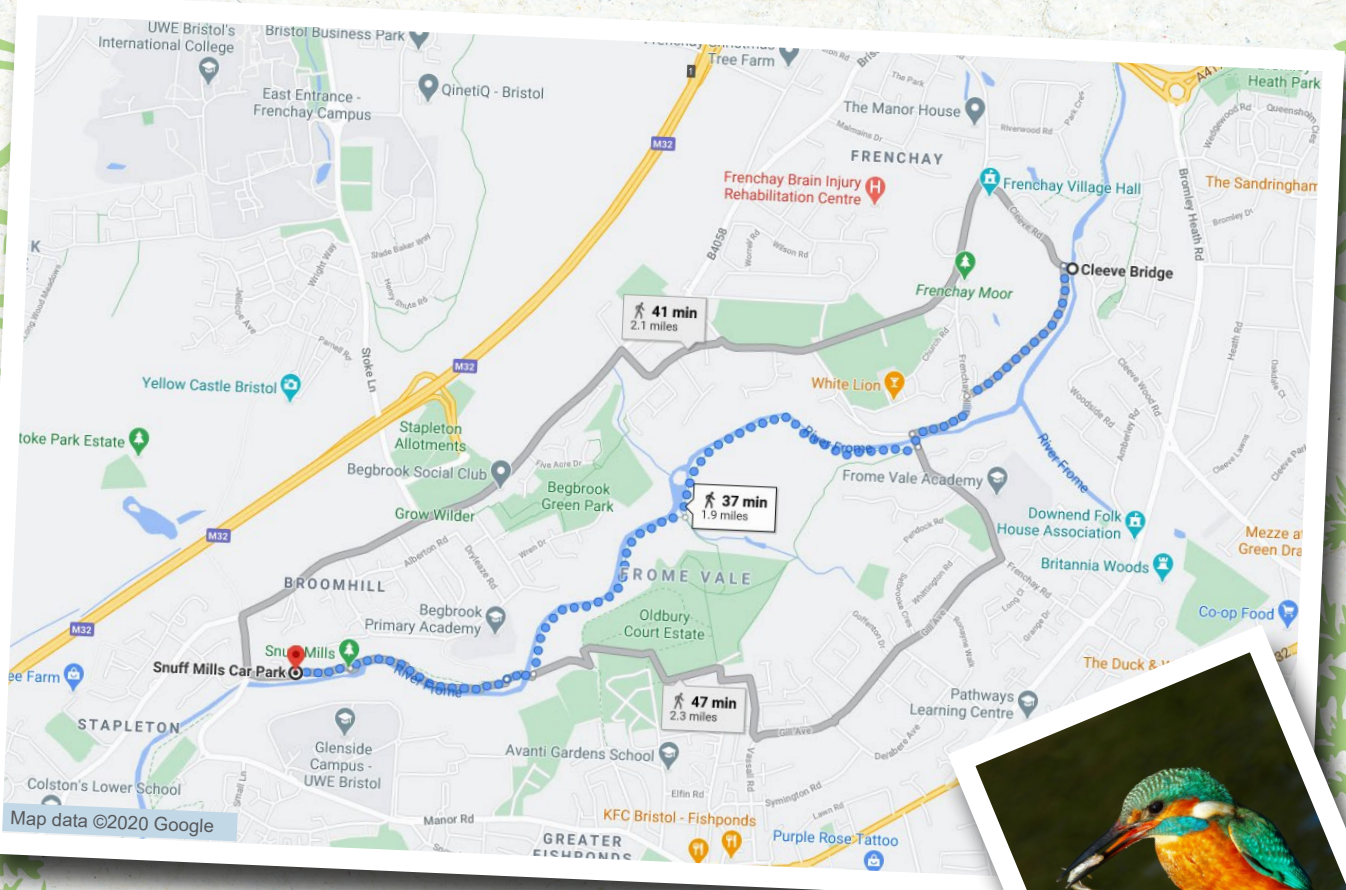

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Directions

1. Start your walk at the Snuff Mills car park, which is on River View Road (postcode: BS16 1DL). Parking is free and there is a café and toilets here too.
2. From the carpark continue walking along River View Road until you hit the Frome Valley Walkway
3. Follow the walkway keeping the river on your right until you meet halfpenny bridge.
4. Cross the bridge and continue along the path, keeping the river on your left. You'll pass by the Oldbury Court Estate on your right.
5. After about a mile, you'll reach Frenchay Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right onto Frenchay Hill Road. Then take the first right to continue on the Froome Valley walkway.
6. Continue along the walkway for several hundred metres until you reach Cleeve Bridge. Frenchay Moor will be on your left.
7. After stopping for a rest and a picnic at Frenchay Moor, re-trace your steps back to Snuff Mills for a well-earned cuppa.



Look out for Kingfishers!

Rangers Reveal - Rachel's Walk

Hi, I'm Rachel, Lead Ranger at Longshaw in the Peak District. My job is all about looking after Longshaw and the things that make it special, making sure that people are able to enjoy it. Our ranger team here do lots of fantastic work, from restoring habitats to monitoring wildlife, repairing footpaths, gates and fences, and rebuilding drystone walls. In total we look after over 700ha of the Peak District National Park.

Why I love this walk

Longshaw has a huge variety of cultural heritage, and historic features, from pre-historic remains to industrial quarrying for millstones and dam building. This short walk is just a taste of what can be found in the surrounding area. Add to this the fantastic views of the surrounding moorlands, and the mosaic of rich wildlife that are part of the Longshaw Estate, and you're in for a treat!

Animals to look out for

Northern Hairy Wood Ants

Look out for their nest mounds, made from pine needles, twigs, and plant stems. See if you can follow one of their trails from a nest to a tree, where you'll find them "farming" aphids for a sugary liquid called honeydew.

Mandarin Ducks

First introduced to the UK from China, they have quickly become established following escapes from captivity. The male mandarin duck has elaborate plumage with distinctive long orange feathers. The female is dull by comparison with a grey head and white stripe behind the eye. In the autumn they moult their tired and worn feathers for shiny new ones. During this time, it can be difficult to tell males and females apart. However, look closely and you'll see the males still have colourful beaks and curled tail feathers!



ROUTE DETAILS



Easy



2-3 hours



2 miles



Dog friendly

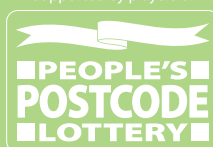


Access:
Moderate

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Features to look out for

Peak District National Park Millstone.

This old millstone shows the boundary and major rivers of the Peak District National Park - the UK's oldest, established in 1951. The campaign was driven by local Rambling groups and the purchase of the Longshaw Estate in 1927 by the people of Sheffield and surrounding towns, was a key part of increasing access to the countryside. Look out for more millstones along the walk.

Stone Gate Posts

These stone gate posts mark the boundary of what was the Sheffield Plantation, a commercial tree planting venture set up in 1815 by a group of Sheffield businessmen. Next to one of the posts is a "Companion Stone", it is shaped as a compass needle and points towards a stone guide post that was erected in 1709 as part of the first sign posting system for travellers - can you spot it?

Optional (small stream to cross!) - wander over and see if you can read the place names carved onto it. Imagine the "trains" of packhorse ponies that have passed this way carrying salt, coal, and other goods.

Bronze Age Ring Cairn

This strange circular pile of stones is the remains of a Bronze Age Burial Cairn from around 3500 years ago. It would have contained the remains of people from Bronze Age settlements in the local area. It is thought that these cairns were boundary or territory markers, showing an ancestral claim and connection to the landscape.

Early Medieval Farmstead

Look out for the remains of an early medieval farmstead, dating from around 1100 AD. The population at the time was growing and wilder land was brought into cultivation. Among the trees you'll see piles of rocks known as clearance cairns, which made growing crops easier. These farmsteads were later abandoned as the population decreased due to the onset of the 'Black Death'.

Pond / Ha Ha wall / Longshaw Lodge

The pond at Longshaw is part of the designed landscape and lodge that the Duke of Rutland created in 1827. As you follow the path back to the lodge you'll find a Ha Ha wall. This is a hidden wall sunk into the ground with a ditch in front of it, designed to keep livestock out, but not spoil the view!



Hairy Wood
Ant Nest



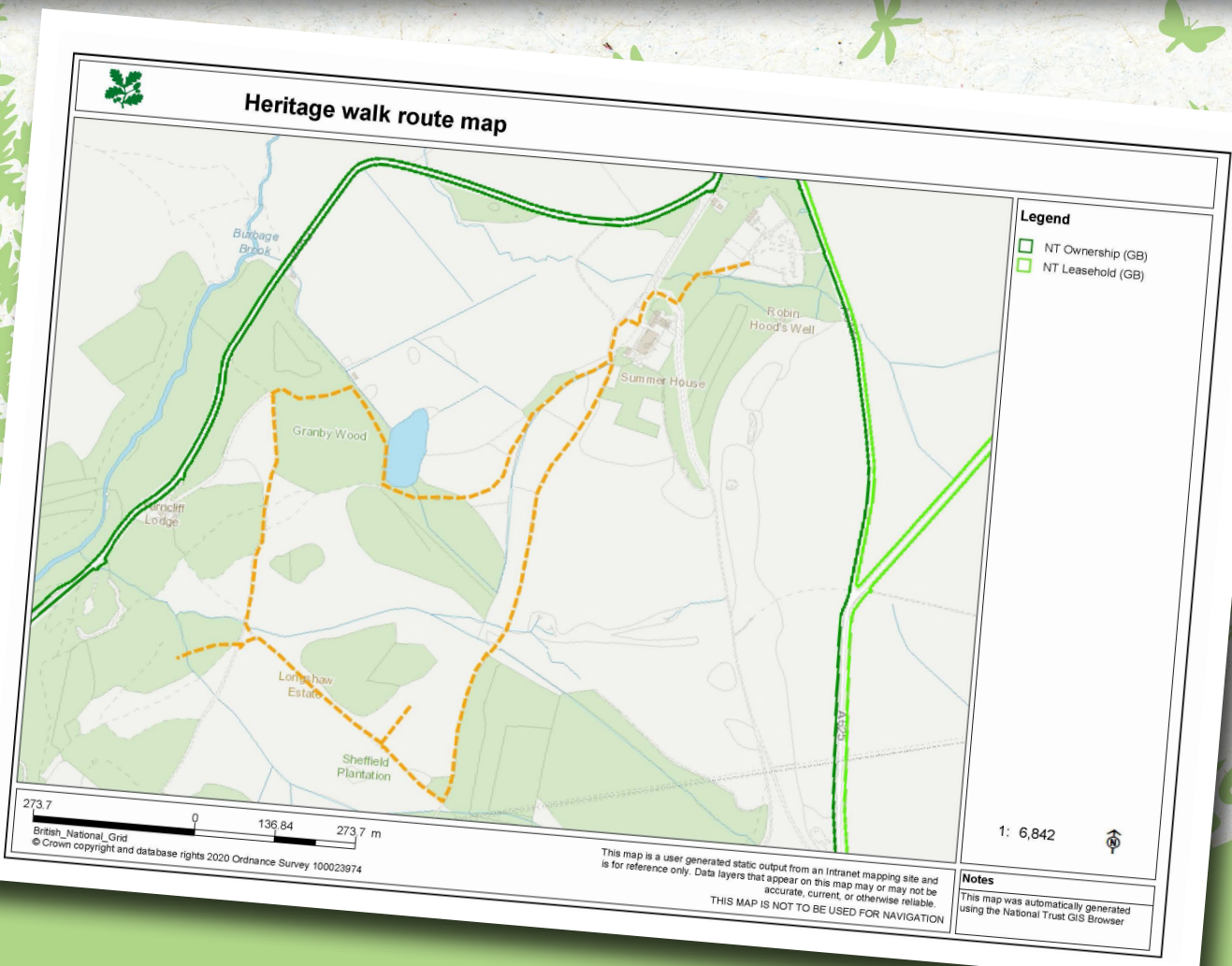
Bronze Age
Cairn



Mandarin Duck

Directions

1. Park in Woodcroft car park, off the A6187 Owlter Bar road near the Fox House pub. Follow the brown tourist signs for Longshaw Estate (your satnav will be very inaccurate for the last half mile!) GR SK267,801
2. Follow the main path at the bottom of the car park, towards Longshaw Lodge, bear right towards the front of the Tearoom (currently being rebuilt, temporary catering is on site below the car park). The walk starts down the slope in front of the tearoom, where you will find the first point of interest – The Peak District National Park Millstone.
3. You are following a route marked with Orange arrows (but there are a couple of detours). Follow these arrows to help find your way.
4. Head left under the Yew trees onto a main track towards the stone gate posts.
5. At the crossroads turn right, then head downhill. You are walking through a stand of Oak trees, when you get to the end look right for the Scots Pine tree on its own. Head 90 degrees from the track towards this Pine and beyond it you will see the stones of the Bronze Age Ring Cairn. Return the same way, then continue downhill.
6. At the bottom of the downhill track turn left, then after a few metres take the right hand of the two paths. Cross a small stream and start to look for features of the Medieval Farmstead. After another 100m you will cross a dry ditch next to an Oak tree. Archaeological features are all around you. Return the same way, then carry straight on. You may find some Wood Ants on you left as you get closer to the next block of trees.
7. Keep going straight on, through a footpath gate, and into an area of dense woodland. Turn right and uphill when you exit the trees. The path now heads towards the pond.
8. Keep the pond on your left and follow the path uphill through the Rhododendrons. When you emerge from the Rhododendrons the Ha Ha wall is above the path on your right - don't fall in!
9. Keep following this path back to the start.



Rangers Reveal - Neil's Walk

Hi, I'm Neil - the Area Ranger for Grasmere and Great Langdale in the Lake District. I've been working for the National Trust for over 22 years. My work involves working to care and maintain many hectares of diverse landscapes in the Lake District. Rangers work with other staff and volunteers to maintain footpaths, gates, stiles and bridges. Rangers are the eyes and ears of the national park and provide a contact between visitors, local people and the National Trust.

Why I love this walk

High Close Garden is an arboretum (or tree garden) situated between Grasmere & Elterwater. The garden covers 11 acres and is part of the wider High Close estate which totals 535 acres. It is a tranquil and peaceful place, perfect for a stroll and a picnic. In its time the garden would have employed 9 gardeners and a path sweeper. However, in the years since the National Trust took over High Close, the maintenance has been undertaken by the Rangers and volunteers and this work is now ongoing to bring the garden back to life.

Originally planted in the 1860s by Edward Balme, High Close features many exotic conifers from North America, as well a variety of Rhododendrons. The exposed location of the garden has resulted in many of the larger trees lost due to winds and winter storms. Several foreign plants species which were introduced in the late 1800s have become invasive weeds, the worst being the American Raspberry, which until a few years ago covered almost two thirds of the garden.



ROUTE DETAILS



Easy



1.5 hours



1.2 miles



Dog friendly



Access:
Moderate

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Features to look out for

- If you're feeling romantic, take a rest on one of the many stone "Courting Seats" set into the walls.
- Stop on the bottom path for a picnic where the views open up across Loughrigg tarn and Elterwater.
- The arboretum now contains species grown as part of the International Conifer Conservation Programme, which aims to provide habitats for rare and threatened conifer species. Take a look at our detailed [tree descriptions here](#). You can also scan the QR codes on the sign by each tree during your walk to access more information.

Animals to look out for

1. Roe Deer are a common sight in the garden and adjacent woodland. You may also see Red Deer, who as the name suggests are redder in colour. The males also have larger and more branched antlers than their Roe cousins.
2. If you're lucky you can see our native Red Squirrels, whose numbers have been decimated by habitat loss and the introduction of the North American Grey Squirrel in the 1800s.

Directions

1. You can walk here from either Elterwater or Grasmere. If you are driving, park in our new car park next to YHA Hostel. If following SAT NAV, use: LA22 9HJ.
2. Enter from the wooden gates just off the main YHA car park. Here you'll see two of the largest trees in the arboretum.
3. Follow the directional arrows round the arboretum, completing points 1-7 on the map [found here](#).
4. If you want a longer walk, you can then follow the path into Low Wood, outside of the true arboretum, completing points 8-12 on the map.
5. To do this, follow the path from the Monterey Pine passing a wooden gate. Walk alongside the iron railings until you reach a second gate to take you into Low Wood. The track gets a little more rough, steep and muddy from here.
6. Follow the Victorian carriage track down into the woodlands, arrows will point the way. Follow the path by the fence boundary and return to the path back up to the YHA Car Park.



Roe Deer



Red Squirrel



Red Deer

Rangers Reveal - Chantelle's Walk

Hi, I'm Chantelle – a House Steward for the National Trust house Townend. During the Covid-19 lockdown I have realised how important it has been to get outdoors and embrace nature. As part of Heritage Open Days I am going to share a nice walk with you to visit two of my favourite gardens around Windermere.

Why I love this walk

This walk leads between two of the 'secret gardens' of the Lake District. The first is Townend, an extraordinary example of one of the Lake District's surviving farmhouses. Its courtyard garden helps to tell the story of the family who lived there and is still planted in a traditional style today.

The second is Stagshaw Garden, an 8-acre informal woodland garden near Ambleside. It is a great place to sit down and relax with the soothing sounds of nature and stunning views over Windermere.

Both gardens provide a haven of tranquillity to sit and quietly enjoy nature in its truest form.

Animals to look out for

1. If you're lucky you can see our native Red Squirrels, whose numbers have been decimated by habitat loss and the introduction of the North American Grey Squirrel in the 1800s.
2. Look out for Herdwick Sheep in Troutbeck, an extremely hardy native breed who have roamed the area for generations.
3. Can you spot Townend's resident robin? He'll be scouring the garden for worms, insects, seed and fruits.



ROUTE DETAILS



Moderate



3.5 hours



3 miles
(each way)



Dog friendly



Access:
Challenging

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Features to look out for

- At Townend make sure to look around the garden for slates with 'EB' written on them. Elizabeth Birkett was one of the residents of the house and the slates highlight a variety of recipes from Elizabeth Birkett's Book of Commonplace (1699) for medicinal, household and culinary purposes.
- Take a flask and sit and sit and enjoy the spectacular views over Windermere and the mountains from one of the benches in Stagshaw Garden.
- Stagshaw garden was created by Cubby Acland, a former National Trust land agent in 1957. Here, Cubby planted an array of different camellias to represent an artist's palette, complete with a small thumb hole that you might be able to see!



Townend

Red Squirrel



Herdwick
Sheep



Directions

Parking:

- Townend, Troutbeck has a carpark open to visitors on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10am-5pm. The house and toilet facilities are currently closed.
- NT Stagshaw Garden, Ambleside. There is a small car park just off the A591 at Waterhead which is open 7 days a week.

The walk can be started from either garden.

From Townend Garden:

1. Turn right and walk along Holbeck Lane until you come to a small path on the left just past Fell Lane.
2. Follow this bridleway down, past Middlerigg Tarn. At the end of the Bridleway turn right and follow the road for approximately 1.5 miles, until you see Stagshaw Gardens on the right.

From Stagshaw Gardens:

1. Turn left at the bottom of the drive and follow the road for approximately 1.5 miles.
2. Just past Brockhole on Windlemere and Ecclerigg Old Farm you'll find a Bridleway (Waites Lane) on your left.
3. Follow this along, past Middlerigg Tarn, until you get to the end of the path. Turn right onto Hollbeck Lane and follow this along until you see Townend on your left.

Rangers Reveal - Elaine's Walk

Hi, I'm Elaine - Visitor Experience and Volunteering Manager for Allan Bank, Grasmere. I've been working with the National Trust for 8 years. My work involves me leading a busy team in looking after Allan Bank, welcoming visitors and helping them to get the most from their day out.

Why I love this walk

Taking my cue from Canon Rawnsley, cofounder of the National Trust whose centenary we celebrate this year, 'By Fell and Dale' recounts a February walk in Easedale Tarn:

"...there is no hours walk in Grasmere neighbourhood better worth the taking, no walk a single hour will give such variety of scene, touch so many stops of tender memory or give surely a sense of solitude and of mountain secret and charm."

This walk was also a favourite of William and Dorothy Wordsworth whose custom according to their friend, Lady Richardson of Lancrigg, was: "to spend the fine days of summer in the open air chiefly in the valley of Easedale". For me, there is no better place to while away a couple of hours.



ROUTE DETAILS



Moderate



3.5 hours



5 miles
(round trip)



Dog friendly



Access:
Challenging

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Features to look out for

- The waterfall Sour Milk Gill or, 'Churn Milk Force', which Dorothy Wordsworth likened to a "broad stream of snow.". Rawnsley describes it as a "a ghyll of milk white water from the marsh, not the ghyll of milk gone sour."
- Looking down from the little bridge over the stream before the waterfall you can see a historic drystone sheep wash fold. Used in the past to manage sheep whilst getting them through the beck to wash their fleeces prior to hand clipping.
- Over the stream from the wash fold is the remains of a leat (water channel) to divert water from the main flow and direct it over an overshot watermill wheel. This once powered a fulling mill to process wool, which although no longer visible was one of the earliest in Grasmere having been built in the 13th Century.
- The large boulder to the left of the path as you approach the tarn at one time formed the wall of a Victorian stone hut that sold refreshments. Rawnsley writes: "With Tarn Crag in front of us and Blakerigg upon our left, we reach a little stone hut which has been built like a swallows' nest against a huge boulder". Further information on the tea hut can be found [here](#).



Sour Milk
Gill



Easedale
Tarn

Animals to look out for

1. Herdwick Sheep - the iconic sheep of the Lake District, celebrated by the indomitable Canon Rawnsley who chaired the formation of a Herdwick Sheep Association in 1899. Beatrix Potter was a keen supporter of Herdwick sheep and helped to preserve the breed.
2. The 'Bessy Dooker' a Cumbrian Dialect word for Dipper a small, chunky, stout, short-tailed, short-winged, strong-legged bird named for their dipping movements with the ability to dive and swim under water.
3. Once you reach the Tarn look out for the Brown Trout rising to feed on emerging insects on the surface of the tarn.

Herdwick
Sheep

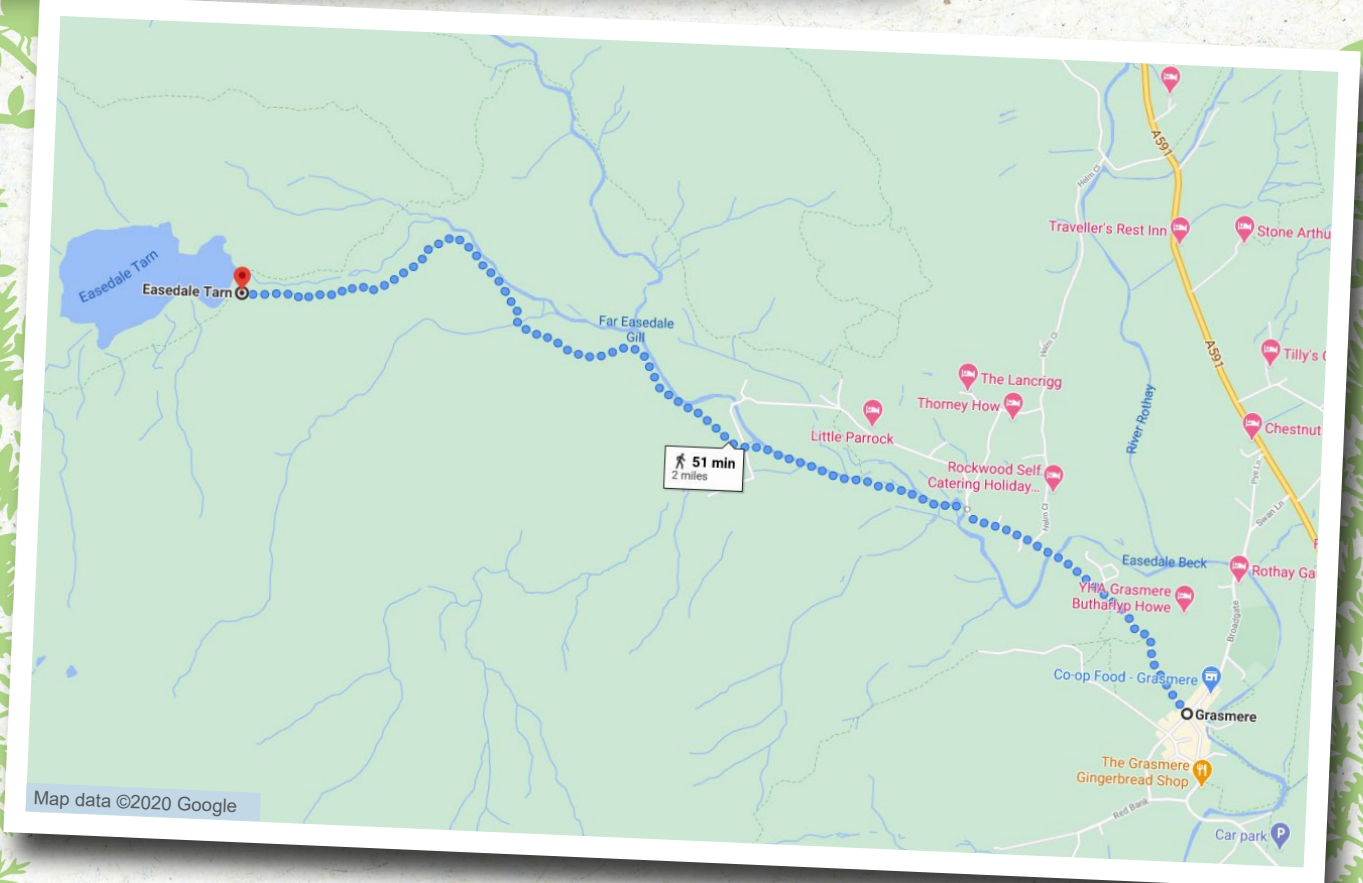


Directions

1. Park in Grasmere Village at one of the three pay and display car parks and walk up from the village.
2. Either proceed along Easedale road (the first road left on Broadgate after Heaton Cooper Studios) passing Glenthorne Quaker Centre. Alternatively, if you wish to take in the frontage of Allan Bank walk along the private road which leads from Emma's Dell café via a cattle grid, before bearing right towards Glenthorne Guest house, following the path parallel to Easedale road.
3. Follow the signposts for Easedale Tarn and walk for about half a mile until reaching a track which leads off the road to the left via a bridge across the river, the track is signposted Easedale Tarn.
4. The track follows the course of the stream, passing through meadows until it reaches Sour Milk Gill.
5. The path then rises steeply beside the waterfall. Continue to follow the path up to Easedale Tarn.
6. Return to Grasmere following the same route.

"Meanwhile the calm lake grew dark with all the shadows on its breast, and, now and then, a fish up-leaping snapped the breathless stillness."

William Wordsworth



Rangers Reveal - Hazel's Walk

Hi, I'm Hazel, the Senior Visitor Experience Officer at Avebury, which is cared for by the National Trust. Although the famous stone circle is often seen as the highlight, part of my role is also about creating experiences that help people explore the wonderful places we care for as part of the wider Wiltshire Landscape portfolio.

Why I love this walk

This is a beautiful walk filled with fabulous views, wildlife and history. You'll discover every possible type of terrain from steep chalk grassland, through to woodland, farmland and picturesque villages. In particular, a highlight has to be the 360-degree view from the top of Cley Hill, which is amazing.

Animals to look out for

1. Look out for yellowhammer darting through the hedgerows. Their bright yellow head makes them hard to miss.
2. Buzzards, kestrels and the occasional hobby soar above the slopes on the west and north sides of Cley Hill.
3. Cattle graze freely on Cley Hill for much of the year which improves and increases the grassland habitat in an environmentally sound and sustainable way.



Yellowhammer



ROUTE DETAILS



Challenging



5.5 hours



9.5 miles



Dog friendly



Access:
Challenging

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Features to look out for

1. At the summit of Cley Hill are two 4000-year-old Bronze Age burial mounds, known as 'barrows'.
2. The steep slopes and thin soils provide the perfect conditions for chalk grassland flora and fauna to survive. The whole of Cley Hill is an island of biodiversity amongst the large and productive fields of this intensely agricultural county.
3. When at the top of Cley Hill you are in the centre of a 2,500-year-old Iron Age hillfort. On a clear day you can see Alfred's Tour at Stourhead from here.



Kestrel

Directions

1. Park at the Cley Hill National Trust car park, signposted from the A362.
2. Leave via the gap next to the large wooden gate. Follow the stony track as it bends round to the right and then left.
3. [Download this PDF](#) for a map, key points and directions.

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